C.117. 9. 1 (14)

A REPRESENTATION OF THE SAD Condition and Humble Deſires Of the PEOPLE of GLASGOW.

IT pleaſed the Lord, in the deep of his Wiſedome and over-ruling Providence, ſo to diſpoſe, that, upon the 17. of *June* laſt, 1652. being Thurſday, a little before two of the clock in the afternoon, a ſudden and violent fire brake up within a narrow cloſſe, upon the Eaſt ſide of the ſtreet above the Croſſe, which, within a ſhort ſpace, burnt up ſix cloſſes with diverſe conſiderable buildings upon the fore-ſtreet. And while the inhabitants of the neighbouring places of the Town were flocked together for the removall of the goods that could be gotten from amongſt the fire, and hindering, ſo far as in them lay, the ſpreading of the ſame: the wind, blowing from the North-Eaſt, carried ſuch ſparks of the flamme as kindled unexſpectedly

ctedly ſome houſes on the Weſt ſide of the Salt-Mercat, where the fire ſo ſpred, that it did overrun all from houſe to houſe, and conſumed in ſome few hours what came in its way, not only Houſes, but Goods alſo, both of the Inhabitants of that ſtreet, and of others likewiſe, who, when the fire began upon them, had brought to that place theſe of their Goods and Moveables which were gotten ſafe from the fire that firſt ſeiſed upon them. This fire, by the hand of GOD, was carried ſo from the one ſide of that ſtreet to the other, that it was totally conſumed on both ſides: and in it the far beſt and moſt conſiderable Buildings in the Town, with all the Chops and Ware-houſes of the Merchants which were therein; And from that ſtreet the flamme was carried to the Tron-gait, Gallow-gait and Bridg-gait: In all which ſtreets a great many of conſiderable Cloſſes and Buildings, with the beſt part of the moveables and commodities of the Inhabitants, were burnt to aſhes. This ſad diſpenſation, from the Hand of an angry GOD, continued neer by eighten hours, before the great violence of the fire began to abate. In this ſhort time, a great number of thoſe who were wealthy before were extreamly impoveriſhed, many Merchants and others neer by ruined; a very conſiderable number of Widows, Orphans and honeſt Families, were brought to extream miſery, the Dwellings of almoſt a thouſand Families were utterly conſumed, and many of theſe, who had a large Patrimonie, and oftimes had been a ſhelter to others in their ſtraits, had not themſelves a place where to cover their head, or knew wherewith to provide bread for them and their families, That which was preſerved from the violence of the fire, being caſt out in the open ſtreet, and by frequent removings thereof from one place to another, and from that to a third, and from a third place to a fourth

a fourth, as the fire occaſioned, ſo that it was either taken away by ſtealth, which in ſuch a confuſion was inevitable: or in a great part ſo ſpoiled, that it was made utterly unprofitable.

When ſome hundreths of Families, in great diſtreſſe and wants, had, till the Saturnday at night, lyen in the open fields, and diverſe of them were beginning to get ſome ſhelter with ſuch of their neighbours as the Lord had ſpared: Upon the Lords Day, betwixt ſeven and eight in the morning, the fire brake up anew in the North ſide of the Trongait, and continued burning violently till neer by twelve hours in the fore-noon. This new and ſad ſtroke, upon the back of the other, not only deſtroyed diverſe Dwelling-houſes, and occaſioned the pulling down of many more. but it ſo terrified the whole Inhabitants, that all carried out of their houſes what moveables they had, and took themſelves again for ſome nights to the open fields; And in this fear, and removing of their goods from their houſes to the ſtreets, and from the ſtreets to the fields, the loſſe by ſtealing and ſpoiling of goods was very great to all: and diverſe, on whom the fire unexſpectedly ſeiſed, were altogether ruined.

As we deſire to acknowledge the Juſtice of the Lord in this terrible ſtroke, having miniſtred ſo much fewell to the fire of his indignation that burns ſo hot againſt the whole Land: and to mourn under His heavy diſpleaſure, that His further wrath againſt us may, in his Sonne, be averted; So are we neceſſitate earneſtly to intreat for charitable and timous ſupplie from our Chriſtian Brethren and Neighbours, whom we do in all humility requeſt, if there be any conſolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowſhip of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

That they would tenderly lay to heart, and conſider the deſolate condition of the poor Inhabitants of this afflicted Citie, and, with cheerfulneſſe and a willing minde, in due ſeaſon, caſt ſome of their ſeed upon theſe many waters, for the refreſhment of us who are ready to faint in this our languiſhing condition. As GOD hath given every one ability, ſo we hope they will give: A very mite, from a willing minde of theſe who can do no more, will be accepted of the LORD, will be to us comfortable, and, we are confident, will be no ſmall matter of joy to themſelves, in the day of their accounts, that, in this ſo conſiderable an opportunity of charitie, they have not hid themſelves from their own fleſh.

FINIS.